

Tralee Educate Together National School

Newsletter



Welcome to the new edition of our School Newsletter!

We hope you will enjoy reading about what your children have been doing at school during first term.

This has been a busy time at school, with many important events. We started September with our Healthy Eating Week and Party, which was a great success.

In October parents had an opportunity to learn more about Dyslexia and Dyspraxia by attending an information evening organised by Tralee Rotary Club.

On the same month we had our Ethos Week at school, where staff and parents looked at our Code of Behaviour and children held Student Council Elections.

The election process was a wonderful experience for our children, who campaigned very hard for getting a place in the new Student Council and had very serious discussions around democracy and voting.

Election Day was on Thursday 27th of October, followed by the count of votes the next day. The Mayor of Tralee, Grace O'Donnell presided over the count.

We finished October with a cake sale and a board game playing as part of the Educate Together National Fundraising Day.

In November we celebrated Friendship and Maths Week, we had the Scholastic Book Fair for several days with us and students from 3rd

Student Council 2011/2012



Front Row L-R: Wiktor, Eshaal, Ruairi, Jagoda.
Middle Row L-R: : Peace, Darragh, Bosun, Caitlin, Neil, Vilte, Andrew, Sara, Kenny, Luke.
Back Row; Denis Reidy (Principal) and Grace O'Donnell (Mayor of Tralee).

to 6th class attended a Kerry Film Festival Workshop in the school.

Parents also had a workshop, not exactly in films, but in Maths, learning about the new subtraction-regrouping method.

And finally December, just before the deadline for this edition, our parents and staff had an opportunity to meet and share a nice time in the Christmas Social organised by our Parents Association.

We can only thank to everybody in our school community for making this first term a great success.

Happy reading and happy seasons greeting to all!

Editorial Team TETNS



Children's work on Ethical Education

In the main hallway besides the Resource Room there is an Ethical Education display board where the classes can display the work done in class. Classes take turns in displaying their work. This term it was Junior and Senior Infants who did the displays.



mid October and mid November and it's one of the most important festivals of the Hindu year. It is an official holiday in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The word means 'row of lamps'. The lighting of small clay lamps filled with

Diwali, the Festival of Light

The children displayed the work they did in connection with Diwali, the festival of light. They learned that Diwali is celebrated between

oil is to represent the triumph of good over evil. Lamps are kept burning during the night so that the god Lakshmi feels welcome. Firecrackers are burst to drive out evil spirits.

Islam and Mendhi hands



Infants classes also did work on Islam. We can see a photo of their Mendhi hands. They learned that Muslims pray five times a day and that they face towards Mecca.

Tralee Educate Together N.S is currently reviewing the Ethical Education Plan for the school. The notice board in the main building is a new initiative where classes take turns displaying class work. All parents/guardians are welcome to come to the main building to view the photographs and displays. If you have any views or ideas regarding the implementation of Ethical Education in the school please contact Catherine at the school.

Farm, Ethics and Environment



As part of the Ethics and the Environment strand of Ethical Education, Junior and Senior Infants did displays on Insects and The farm.

The Crocus Project

The Holocaust Educational Project is intended for pupils aged eleven and upwards. The Holocaust Educational Trust of Ireland provides schools with yellow crocus bulbs to plant in autumn in memory of the one and a half million Jewish children and thousands of other children who died in the Holocaust.

The yellow flowers recall the yellow Stars of David all Jews were forced to wear under Nazi rule.



The activity provides an opportunity to introduce primary school children to the subject of Holocaust. 5th and 6th class children in Denis's class are taking part in this project as part of the Equality and Justice strand of the Ethical Education programme.



The Big Clean-Up

Some parents, children and our German visitors took time out of a weekend in September to clean up the school garden, which had gone wild after the long summer.

John Walker, Chairperson of the Parents Association, hired a strimmers and we all set to weeding the vegetable beds.

Many sore backs but a good days work!



Busy Bees around the Garden

The children have been busy in the school garden this term.

3rd & 4th Class planted a willow dome with help from parents John Walker and Roslyn O'Connell.



1st & 2nd Class spread sea weed on the vegetable beds to fertilise the soil which is being prepared for planting in Spring time.

Each class now brings their left over fruit and vegetables after

lunch to the compost bin so that we can make our own compost.

Every pupil planted a variety of bulbs around the school to encourage unity and respect and we can all look forward to the added colour next Spring.

Feel free to visit our garden to see all the hard work being done.



Preparing the soil, spreading sea weed and making compost were some of the gardening activities during first term.





Musical Memory Game



We have been lucky to have had the help of Marie, a German student in our First and Second Class classroom. She is with us until January. As part of her course she needed to work on an inclusive education project. The children and her have been

working through the theme of music. The pictures that the children are drawing are different pairs of instruments that she used to create a memory game. The class also composed pieces using instruments.

Lots of Fun in Maths Week



During Maths Week, the pupils were reminded that Maths is a part of our everyday lives. It is everywhere and helps us in many different ways. To show this we invited the parents of First and Second Class to our room to play Maths games with the pupils. All of the games were Maths related and both the pupils and parents had a great time.



Children in First and Second Class have been learning and working around estimation... How many rubbers can fit in a jar? How long do you think the table is?...





Geography Field Trip to LEE Strand Creamery

Third and Fourth Class went on a trip to the Lee Strand Creamery in September. We got a tour of the

production area. We saw where the milk was pasteurised and where it was put into cartons and bottles. We also got to go into the Lab where the milk is tested for bacteria and we met the mascot, Mighty Mikey.

In the end we went into the boardroom where we were shown how to make delicious strawberry and banana smoothies. We all got a goodie bag to take home, with a mug, a key ring and free milk. We'd a great day. Our school is now going to collect tokens from the Lee Strand milk cartons. If we collect enough tokens, Lee Strand will give the school some money.



"We saw where the milk was pasteurised and where it was put into cartons and bottles."

Science Week in Action

Third and Fourth Class did some interesting experiments during Science Week.

We did an experiment called Rainbow Milk where we used food colouring, a cotton bud and washing up

liquid to break the bond that holds the fats in milk together. We could see the fats twist and turn in the milk.

We also did Amazing Triangles using cocktail sticks and marshmallows.

We found out that the triangle is a much stronger shape than a square. This makes the triangle a popular shape when building.





Spooky Harvest Festival



Carving pumpkins to create these spooky lanterns was the way Fifth and Sixth Class marked our Harvest Festival in the school, which happened around the same days of the traditional Halloween celebrations.



Arts and Fundraising



Children in Fifth and Sixth Class have been very creative using the arts technique of *papier mache* to make some unique animal pieces. This technique is basically

newspaper and glue which combined and shaped can produce amazing results! Come and visit the classroom the next term to see them finished!



Fifth and Sixth Class had great fun playing board games and fundraising for our school patron during the Educate Together National Fundraising Day.



Students Council Elections



Grace O'Donnell, Mayor of Tralee

The elections for the Students Council were held on the same day as the Presidential Election., Thursday 27th of October. Children from 2nd to 6th classes took part. It was an ideal opportunity for them to discover democracy in action.

Democracy is one of the four principals of Educate Together ethos. Congratulations to Wiktor, Eshaal, Ruairi, Jogoda, Peace, Darragh, Bosun, Caitlin, Neil, Vilte, Andrew, Sara, Kenny and Luke who were elected to the Student Council.

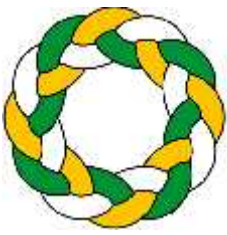
We were honoured to have Grace O'Donnell, Mayor of Tralee to assist with the count. She shared stories of her personal election experience with the children.



The counting of the votes for the Students Council in the school yard.

A Sample of our Healthy Eating Week and Party





Tralee Educate Together National School

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WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR UNIQUE ETHOS...

Child centred in their approach to education..

Co-educational and committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities.

Democratically run with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers.

Multi-denominational i.e all children having equal rights of access to the school, and children of all social, cultural, religious and nonreligious backgrounds being equally respected.



Greetings from the Parents Association

Congratulations to the newly elected student council, and we give our full support for all their work.

A big thank you to all those that helped with the healthy eating party; whether you brought in some food, helped prepare or helped serve, the children really enjoyed it.

We hope the winners of the fancy dress competition liked their pumpkin prizes, just as everyone liked seeing all the costumes for the Harvest Festival.

We also loved the seasonal art the children made for this year's "Season's Greetings" cards. They look wonderful printed. And the winter social for parents and staff was great fun.

Let's hope we have raised plenty at the bag-packing in Dunnes, Horans Centre so in the New Year we can continue to support the school: children, staff and parents.

We look forward to seeing lots of parents and guardians at the A.G.M. in February. We will send out more details after the holidays.

Enjoy the break, and a Happy New Year from the P.A.



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- Catherine Barry (Resource Teacher)
- Barbara Damm (Parent)

Design

Barbara Damm (Parent)

Next Issue

Last week of March 2012

If you would like to participate or make suggestions about the School Newsletter, please contact us at:

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